

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly Newscast

November 22nd, 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News Story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the definition that best matches each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. approximately	a) a group of people sent to a place for a specific reason, often to help in some way
	2. relief	b) when something is almost but not completely exact
	3. mission	c) basic facilities for a country, such as roads, bridges, power supply
	4. aid	d) financial or other help given to people in special need after things such as natural disasters
	5. survivors	e) a gift or payment to a common fund or collection, i.e., Poppies, Breast Cancer Research, Tsunami Relief
	6. infrastructure	f) money, food, or other supplies given to help a country or group of people
	7. contribution	g) a person who lives after an event where others have died

Extra definitions to help you understand the listening:

water purification: a process to make water clean and healthy to drink

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Typhoon Haiyan hit the northern and southern parts of the Philippines.
2. ____ The typhoon hit on November 8th.
3. ____ Around 14 million people have had to move from their homes.
4. ____ The Canadian government has given more than 20 million dollars to help the Philippines.
5. ____ The Canadian DART team is helping with medical care and infrastructure.

Discussion Questions

Do you feel that there are more natural disasters such as storms, forest fires and tornadoes happening these days? What could be the cause of this? What could we do to protect people from these events?

News Story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Choose the words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) support	a. help assistance
	2) doubled	b. arrival coming in
	3) funding	c. twice as much 100% more
	4) influx	d. the most possible the limit
	5) maximum	e. money financing

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. In your own words, describe the increase in the number of English language learners in K-12 classes in the last five years in Alberta?
2. What is Jaquie Hansen's opinion about what the government needs to do for these learners?
3. How long does Alberta Education provide money to help English language learners in K-12 classes?
4. How many years do some teachers think it takes for English language learners to learn English?

Discussion Questions

What help do you think would be most helpful to kids learning English in school in Alberta? How long do you think it takes for kids to learn English? If you have children in school in Alberta, what has been their experience with learning English?

News Story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

celebration	a social event or party for an important day or event
take place	to happen
head	the boss or leader of an organization
announcement	a public statement about something
parade	a public march or display while moving
send off	a celebration or party for the end of something or when a person is leaving

1. We are planning a huge _____ for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary.
2. Every year I love to go and watch the Calgary Stampede _____ with my children.
3. When my nephew went off to university in Ontario we gave him a big _____.
4. The 2010 Winter Olympics _____ in Vancouver.
5. The _____ of our company is a very friendly person who talks to all of the employees.
6. The City has made an _____ about new fares for public transit.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences based on what you heard in the audio. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. The _____ celebration for the 2014 Olympic games will take place in _____.	a) Canadian/ Calgary b) Albertan/ Edmonton
2. The _____ of the Canadian Olympic Committee made the _____.	a) head/ announcement b) members / video
3. The _____ will include a _____.	a) Olympics / ski race. b) celebration/ parade.
4. _____ will visit schools, _____, and community centres.	a) Canadian Olympic Committee/ universities b) athletes / hospitals
5. An Olympic _____ will be held in _____.	a) send off/Banff b) ski race/ Jasper

Discussion Questions

Do you enjoy watching the Winter Olympics? Do you think that Calgary is the best place to hold the Canadian celebration of the 2014 Olympics? Why or why not?

Language Focus – Understanding subject verb agreement

In English, the basic rule of subject verb agreement is simple to remember:

Singular subjects take singular verb forms

In the simple present form that looks like this:

I + base form of the verb	I like tea.
you+ base form of the verb	You like coffee.
he/she/it + base form of the verb + s	She likes hot chocolate.

Plural subjects take the plural form of the verb

In the simple present form that looks like this:

we + base form of the verb	We love speaking English.
you + base form of the verb	You have the same hair colour.
they + base form of the verb	They look happy to see their parents.

Note: Irregular base forms, like the verb TO BE, use irregular verb forms:

I + am
you + are
he/she/ it/ + is
we/they/you + are

This is important to remember particularly when you are making other verb tenses such as the present continuous, and passive verbs, etc.

Remember: Non-count nouns act like third person singular subjects

Food is desperately needed in the Philippines.

Sometimes it can be tricky to figure out what the subject of the sentence is and to then be sure that the verb 'agrees' with it.

Careful: Do not get distracted by words that come in between the subject and verb.

The adults in my class enjoy grammar quizzes.

****Adults – plural – is the subject, not class**

A large number of Canadians love donuts.

****Canadians is the subject not a large number**

Some pronouns need a plural verb agreement...

Some of the students like eating in class.

Some pronouns do not...

Everyone likes to bring a pen to an exam.

Collective nouns, where one singular noun represents a group of people, take a singular agreement.

The soccer team enjoys oranges at half time.

*****Some nouns are irregularly formed and do not end in 's'.***

children/ people/ women/ men/

When you have more than one non-count noun as a subject, use a plural verb agreement.

Rice, flour and milk are basic food items.

Note: The special case of there is and there are:

In sentences that begin with *there is* or *there are*, the 'true' subject comes after the verb.

This means the verb agrees with what follows.

There is a child in the car.

There are some kids sitting on my lawn.

Now listen again to story #1 and read the transcript as you listen.

Underline the subjects and verbs of each sentence. Can you figure out the reason for each subject verb agreement? Answers are in the appendix.

Story #1

Food, water and medicine are now reaching the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan hit the eastern and central Philippines on November 8, with some of the fastest wind speeds on record. There are now more than 5,000 people dead or missing, and approximately four million people have had to move from their homes. A major international relief mission is happening to help the survivors. Many of these survivors will need aid for months to come. The Canadian government has increased its contribution to more than 20 million dollars, as well as paying for the Disaster Assistance Response Team. DART specializes in basic medical care and infrastructure repairs, as well as water purification. Three Canadian military helicopters from Edmonton are also in the Philippines delivering aid.

Transcripts of Weekly News Stories

	NOVEMBER 22ND WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Rosa Marchitelli. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for November 22nd.	0:00
Story 1	Food, water and medicine are now reaching the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan hit the eastern and central Philippines on Nov. 8, with some of the fastest wind speeds on record. There are now more than 5,000 people dead or missing and approximately four million people have had to move from their homes. A major international relief mission is happening to help the survivors. Many of these survivors will need aid for months to come. The Canadian government has increased its contribution to more than 20 million dollars, as well as paying for the Disaster Assistance Response Team. DART as it's called specializes in basic medical care and infrastructure repairs, as well as water purification. Three Canadian military helicopters from Edmonton are also in the Philippines delivering aid.	0:09
Story 2	Teachers are asking for more support to help students learning English. In the past 5 years the number of English Language Learners in kindergarten to grade 12 classes in the province has doubled. The President of the Alberta School Boards Association Jaquie Hansen says government funding needs to keep up with the influx into schools of new Canadians. Alberta Education funds the students for a maximum of five years. But teachers say it can take up to seven years for kids to learn English. There are more than 76, 000 students learning English in Alberta schools.	01:29
Story 3	The Canadian celebration for the 2014 Olympics will take place right here in Alberta. The head of the Canadian Olympic Committee made the announcement Wednesday. The celebrations will include a parade in Calgary -- with athletes also visiting schools, hospitals and community centres across the province. There will also be an Olympic send off in Banff. That will be held on January 11th.	02:24

Appendix Answer Keys:

News Story 1 – Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
b	1. approximately	a) a group of people sent to a place for a specific reason, often to help in some way
d	2. relief	b) when something is almost but not completely exact
a	3. mission	c) basic facilities for a country, such as roads, bridges, power supply
f	4. aid	d) financial or other help given to people in special need after things such as natural disasters
g	5. survivor	e) a gift or payment to a common fund or collection, i.e., Poppies, Breast Cancer Research, Tsunami Relief
c	6. infrastructure	f) money, food, or other supplies given to help a country or group of people
e	7. contribution	g) a person who lives after an event where others have died

**** aid and relief are synonyms**

Listening

1. **F** Typhoon Haiyan hit the northern and southern parts of the Philippines.
2. **T** The typhoon hit on November 8th.
3. **F** Around 14 million people have had to move from their homes.
4. **T** The Canadian government has given more than 20 million dollars to help the Philippines.
5. **T** The Canadian DART team is helping with medical care and infrastructure.

News Story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
a	1) support	a. help assistance
c	2) doubled	b. arrival coming in
e	3) funding	c. twice as much 100% more
b	4) influx	d. the most possible the limit
d	5) maximum	e. money financing

Listening

1. In your own words, describe the increase in the number of English language learners in K-12 classes in the last five years in Alberta?

In the past five years, the number of English language learners has increased by 100% in Alberta.

2. What is Jaquie Hansen's opinion about what the government needs to do for these learners?

She thinks that the government needs to provide more money for these learners.

3. How long does Alberta Education provide money to help English language learners in K-12 classes?

For 5 years

4. How many years do some teachers think it takes for English language learners to learn English?

They think it takes 7 years.

News Story 3

Vocabulary

1. We are planning a huge celebration for my parents' 50th wedding anniversary.
2. Every year I love to go and watch the Calgary Stampede parade with my children.
3. When my nephew went off to university in Ontario we gave him a big send-off
4. The 2010 Winter Olympics took place in Vancouver.
5. The head of our company is a very friendly person who talks to all of the employees.
6. The City has made an announcement about new fares for public transit.

Listening

1. The _____ celebration for the 2014 Olympic games will take place in _____.	a) Canadian/ Calgary b) Albertan/ Edmonton
2. The _____ of the Canadian Olympic Committee made the _____.	a) head/ announcement b) members / video
3. The _____ will include a _____.	a) Olympics / ski race. b) celebration/ parade.
4. _____ will visit schools, _____, and community centres.	a) Canadian Olympic Committee/ universities b) athletes / hospitals
5. An Olympic _____ will be held in _____.	a) send off/Banff b) ski race/ Jasper

Language Focus

Story 1

Food, water and medicine are now reaching the Philippines. Typhoon Haiyan hit the eastern and central Philippines on November 8, with some of the fastest wind speeds on record. There are now more than 5,000 people dead or missing and approximately four million people have had to move from their homes. A major international relief mission is happening to help the survivors. Many of these survivors will need aid for months to come. The Canadian government has increased its contribution to more than 20 million dollars, as well as paying for the Disaster Assistance Response Team. DART specializes in basic medical care and infrastructure repairs, as well as water purification. Three Canadian military helicopters from Edmonton are also in the Philippines delivering aid.

Subjects are **highlighted** and verbs are **underlined**

Food, water and medicine <u>are</u> now reaching the Philippines.	three non-count nouns
Typhoon Haiyan <u>hit</u>	simple past – all verb agreement is the same
There <u>are</u> now more than 5,000 people dead or missing	<u>are</u> agrees with following subject that is plural
four million people <u>have had</u>	plural subject (people is plural even though it looks singular as it does not end in 's')
A major international relief mission <u>is happening</u>	mission is singular
survivors <u>will need</u>	future verb auxiliary will – same for all agreement
Canadian government <u>has increased</u>	government is singular
DART <u>specializes</u> in basic medical care	DART is a team and so acts like a collective noun
Three Canadian military helicopters from Edmonton <u>are</u> also in the Philippines delivering aid.	3 helicopters = the subject rather than Edmonton